

of this species, in an open swale in an upland pasture, about a quarter of a mile from the nearest salt marsh or salt water, at Arcadia, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, on the western side of the Chebogue River. The nest was near the junction of the River Road with Argyle Street, and was about 150 yards from each of those much-travelled highways, which were in full view from the nest-site. Several cattle occupied the pasture at the time when the nest was found. The swale in which the nest was placed was of considerable extent and was of the kind preferred as a breeding-place by Wilson's Snipe; in fact, a pair of those birds were evidently nesting there. The Willet's nest was a slight hollow in the damp ground, lined with a few dead rushes. It was surrounded by growing rushes, cinnamon fern, low blackberry bushes, and wild rose bushes, and was well concealed. The eggs agreed with standard descriptions of Willets' eggs. They and the nest were left undisturbed.

The sitting Willet flushed from the nest at my very feet, and in appearance and cries was of course unmistakable. So fast did it tear through the low growth around the nest that it left me, as further proof of its identity, two of its feathers, one of which is being forwarded to the Editor of 'The Auk' with this note.

On June 14, 1920, I found another Willet's nest, containing four eggs, at Cook's Beach, at the mouth of the Chebogue River. This nest was scantily lined with dry grass and "eel-grass" and was in a slight hollow on top of a dry, grassy knoll, about fifteen feet above high-tide mark, which was about fifty feet distant. The sitting bird was surrounded by short growing grass and strawberry plants, and by two or three small plants of Iris. It flushed from the nest at my feet, and by loud cries attracted its mate and its neighbors, so that I soon had the pleasure of seeing six Willets in the air together near me. I estimate that there were about a dozen pairs of Willets breeding along the Chebogue River in 1920, and the species is apparently to be considered not uncommon in suitable areas in southwestern Nova Scotia.

When scolding an intruder, Nova Scotian Willets seem to prefer to perch on the very top of some spruce or fir tree, where they appear strangely out of place. They also perch readily on buildings, telephone poles, and fences. For such large game birds they are not very shy, and I have seen one perch on top of a telephone pole close beside the road until I, riding along the road on a bicycle, was directly opposite it, when it flew.

Canada is making special efforts, under the provisions of the Migratory Birds Convention, to give the Nova Scotian Willets such effectual protection as shall result in their rapid increase in numbers.—HARRISON F. LEWIS, *Quebec, P. Q.*

The Willet in Nova Scotia.—In the last edition of the 'Check-List' of the American Ornithologists' Union, under the head of Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus semipalmatus*), it is stated that "Breeds from Virginia (formerly Nova Scotia) south to Florida and the Bahamas." I am glad to be able to state that this bird still breeds in Nova Scotia.

On July 6, 1920, I saw a Willet flying over the salt marshes at Pubinco, two more on the same day at Wood's Harbor—these records were made from the railway train—and on July 9, one at Barrington Passage, all in southern Nova Scotia. On July 18, on the sand flats of Barrington Bay, near Coffincroft, I found a flock of ten Willets, and on July 25, at the same place, Dr. Spencer Trotter and I counted twenty-six of these birds.

Dr. S. K. Palten, of Boston, formerly of Yarmouth, tells me that Willets were shot in considerable numbers in the marshes at Comeau Hill, about twelve miles southeast of Yarmouth, every year. He heard of twenty-two being shot there in 1917. In 1919 some were shot and the offender prosecuted and fined at Yarmouth under the Migratory Bird Convention Law.

Mr. Harrison F. Lewis, as will be seen by his note in this number, has given the final proof of the Willets' still breeding in Nova Scotia by the discovery of two nests with eggs.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, M.D., 98 Pinckney St., Boston, Mass.

Breeding of the Semipalmated Plover (*Aegialitis semipalmata*) in Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia.—On June 14, 1920, at Cook's Beach, at the mouth of the Chebogue River, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia, I found a nest and four eggs of the Semipalmated Plover (*Aegialitis semipalmata* (Bonap.)). The nest was a short distance above ordinary high-tide mark, at a point where the beach consisted of smooth gray stones of moderate size, among which had lodged enough soil to support a very scanty growth of fine, short grass. The four eggs, which corresponded in appearance with the description of the eggs of this species contained in Chapman's "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America," 1912 edition, lay, points inward, on a few bits of seaweed, in a slight, circular depression, apparently made by the bird. They were wholly without shelter, yet so well did they blend in appearance with their surroundings that I had previously searched the beach carefully for three hours without finding them. I finally discovered them by seeing the parent Plover run to them and incubate them while I sat motionless beside some lobster-traps which were piled on the beach a few rods away. After incubating for about ten minutes, the Plover became uneasy, left the eggs, and, with short runs and frequent pauses, repeatedly approached within eight feet of me on the open beach, giving me the best of opportunities to see in detail the characteristic markings of the species. I have been familiar for many years with the appearance and notes of both the Semipalmated Plover and the Piping Plover, and, under the circumstances, could make no error in this identification. There were at least five pairs of Semipalmated Plovers at Cook's Beach on the day of my visit, all apparently breeding there, but I found one nest only belonging to that species. The nest and eggs were left untouched.

The 1910 edition of the A. O. U. 'Check-List' says that this Plover "breeds from Melville Island, Wellington Channel, and Cumberland